



*AT*  
*ZJW*  
Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: West et al. Docket No.: 9222.17412-CIP 1  
Serial No.: 10/017,685 Examiner: L. Thanh  
Filed: 14 December 2001 Group Art Unit: 3763  
Title: Systems and Methods Employing a Bite Block Insert for Positioning and Stabilizing External Instruments Deployed in the Body

**AMENDMENT D**  
**SUBMITTED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

*Entered  
AF  
5/10/06*  
Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed October 6, 2005, which was designated as being final.

An automatic three (3) month extension of time to respond, up to and including April 6, 2006, is respectfully requested. The requisite fee accompanies this Amendment.